**Strategies for Answering Multiple Choice Questions Correctly**

1. Multiple choice questions consist of a stem, which is the basic question, a correct choice, and three distractors. Always read the stem carefully. If possible, try to answer the question in the stem before looking at the choices.
2. Read the choices carefully. Although only one is correct, another may be a possible correct choice.
3. Do not assume that a choice is correct because it hasn’t been used in a while. Likewise, do not assume that a choice is not correct because it has been the solution of the last few questions. Consider each question separately from the others.
4. If a choice contains words you’ve never heard of, it’s not likely to be the correct answer.
5. Pay close attention to qualifying words in the stem. For example:  
     
   “which choice best describes….”  
   “all of these are true except….”
6. If a question looks like something you might have learned in class, try and remember when and where you learned it. What were the exact words you heard or read? Now, do any of the choices look like what you remember?
7. If you choose an answer, and are tempted to change it, think: what is the reason for changing it? Why did you choose that answer to begin with? If you can justify changing your answer, change it. If not, go with your first idea.
8. If you have absolutely no idea what the answer is, try to narrow it down to two possibilities. Frequently, one of these options will be clearly the correct one. If you still can’t narrow it down, guess. Remember, a blank response is always wrong.
9. Occasionally, you will get to a question that looks similar to a previous one, and realize you answered the previous one wrong. Don’t let that affect your answer to the later question. Answer each question separately from the rest.
10. Every few questions, take a 30 second “mental break.” Look away from the test, close your eyes, roll your head, then come back to the test. These short breaks can help refresh your mind to succeed on the rest of the test.